

The New York Times2 FANEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE
BOSTON, MASS. 02109

ANTHONY LEWIS

March 4, 1987

Dear Mr. Lauder:

Do you remember what Dr. Johnson replied when a woman asked how he could have got a definition so wrong in his dictionary? "Ignorance, Madam, pure ignorance."

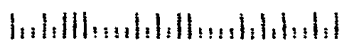
That has to be my answer to you. I was not aware of the agency's denial of the Beirut story, or of your letter to the Post. I should have been.

Best wishes -
Tony Lewis



Mr. George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

7D00



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